

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 19, 2013

Agenda Item: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

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Background: A condition of administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 for stateside funding, every five years Montana must develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to guide the management of outdoor recreation resources. The Final 2014-2018 Montana SCORP, titled *Creating a Vibrant Future for Montana's Outdoor Recreation Heritage*, was prepared in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Office of Tourism, University of Montana, Montana Trails, Recreation & Parks Association, and Missoula County. Through the analysis of supply, demand, and trends, the plan provides strategic recommendations to guide recreation management at the federal, state, and local levels.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Following Board approval of the proposed Draft SCORP, public comment was solicited for 30 days from October 18 through November 18. A public meeting and discussion was hosted at the FWP Regional Offices on October 23. In total, 19 people attend the public meeting. At the end of the comment period, 35 written comments were submitted on the draft plan. All responses received on the Draft SCORP were generally in support of the plan, and some comments including suggestions and feedback on ways to improve discussions in the plan. Comments were grouped by themes discussed and analyzed for incorporation into the final plan.

Alternatives and Analysis: The SCORP is a requirement to be eligible for stateside LWCF grant program. The final plan is due to the National Park Service on December 31, 2013. The following alternatives for concurrence and resulting actions are:

<u>Alternative 1:</u> Not concur with the approval of the proposed Final SCORP for public review, which would put Montana's eligibility for LWCF state assistance program at risk by not meeting the deadline.

<u>Alternative 2:</u> Concur with the approval of the proposed Final SCORP and meet deadline, thus continuing Montana's eligibility for LWCF state assistance.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: Staff recommends the Board concur with the Parks Division to approve the Final SCORP and submit it to the Governor for signature and then to the National Park Service (NPS). This maintains Montana's eligibility to receive federal funding for community recreation grants.

Proposed Motion: I move that the board endorse the 2014-2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and forward it to the Governor office for signature.